



Hamilton County Juvenile Court

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

JUDGE HUNTER WAS NOT NOTIFIED THAT THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE QUIT AND REQUESTS THAT THE PROSECUTOR APPOINTS LAWYERS JUDGE HUNTER SELECTS

Cincinnati, Ohio- Judge Tracie M. Hunter discovered on the Internet late Monday evening that the Prosecutor's Office terminated its legal representation of her. The Judge was not consulted regarding Joseph Deters's unilateral decision, made without her knowledge, to appoint independent counsel. The news surprised Judge Hunter, who has never personally nor professionally met Mr. Deters. Judge Hunter did not receive prior verbal or written notification from Mr. Deters's of his intended recusal, which is ethically required by attorneys when termination occurs. Judge Hunter is shocked at Mr. Deters's efforts to defame a sitting Judge that he has never personally met, nor interacted with on a professional level.

"It is disturbing that an individual who has never personally, nor professionally met me, continues to make dishonest, inflammatory statements about me in a public forum, calculated to fuel hatred and fan discord amongst people that have never met me and most likely will never visit my courtroom. Mr. Deters had an ethical duty to impartially and honestly represent me as an elected official, but throughout the duration of his office's representation, made outrageous accusations about my conduct and character. How can Mr. Deters know what goes on in my courtroom when he has never been in my courtroom, nor met me? My courtroom is orderly run on a timely basis, in an extremely organized and quiet manner."

Mr. Deters has continually accused Judge Hunter of costing the taxpayers' money, when the truth is that Mr. Deters led the election lawsuit against Judge Hunter, despite knowing the outcome of the election. Judge Hunter won the first round of her election lawsuit in November 2010, within days of filing a lawsuit. It would have cost the county less than \$1000 to count the votes, if the Prosecutor's Office complied with Judge Dlott's order before the election results were certified, within weeks of the election. Mr. Deters led the continued appeals of Judge Dlott's initial ruling which, was subsequently confirmed by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and Judge Dlott, over 17 months and \$1.5 Million later. Mr. Deters cost the taxpayers by refusing to follow Judge Dlott's order and continuing to appeal the election ruling.

Mr. Deters continued to cost the taxpayers' by failing to allow three competent attorneys that Judge Hunter selected to represent her for free. Those attorneys were forbidden by Mr. Deters to represent Judge Hunter. After being kicked off of Judge Hunter's case, Judge Hunter's pro bono attorneys later met with the Prosecutor's Office and offered to help the Prosecutor's Office with the lawsuits against Judge Hunter for free, but they refused their assistance. Yesterday, Mr. Deters, without Judge Hunter's knowledge or consent, hired two attorneys that Judge Hunter does not know and did not select, rather than contact the attorneys who agreed to represent Judge Hunter pro bono. The Prosecutor's Office could have saved the county unnecessary legal expenses by accepting Hunter's free counsel. Mr. Deters made a choice, not Judge Hunter, who was neither involved nor aware that new counsel was being sought. Judge Hunter is entitled, under these circumstances, like all Americans to choose her legal representation, not those handpicked by Mr. Deters without her knowledge or consent.

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When Judge Hunter was sued by the Cincinnati Enquirer for following the Hamilton County Local Rules of Court and the Ohio Rules of Superintendence, Judge Hunter requested independent counsel, pursuant to an Ohio Attorney General Opinion that says a county prosecutor should not represent a Judge when there is a conflict of interest. The Ohio Rules of Conduct clearly state that if a lawyer has conflicts based on its representation of other clients against that individual, he must recuse himself from representation to avoid the appearance of impropriety. If a lawyer cannot zealously, impartially and fairly represent an individual, he must recuse himself. The Prosecutor's Office sued Judge Hunter within months of her becoming Judge, then dismissed the lawsuits against her which were improperly filed. The Prosecutor then recommended the County Commissioners to sue Judge Hunter for hiring a Court Administrator, despite the long history of Juvenile Court always having two court administrators, one for each Judge. Based on Mr. Deter's continued lawsuits against Judge Hunter and his continued representation of the Board of Elections against Judge Hunter in outstanding issues, such as attorney's fees and back pay, the Prosecutor's Office was legally barred from representing Judge Hunter, but forced its representation.

Throughout the Prosecutor's representation and contrary to all of the rules of ethics governing attorneys, Mr. Deters made statements against Judge Hunter's character, despite never meeting her. He continues to make statements without basis because he has never been in her courtroom during any trial proceeding.

Judge Hunter was advised to file a grievance against the Prosecutor's Office, based on their continued attack of her character, competency and courtroom, designed to sway public opinion and influence the Ohio Supreme Court against a seated Judge, due to the ill will stemming from her election lawsuit.

Contact:
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